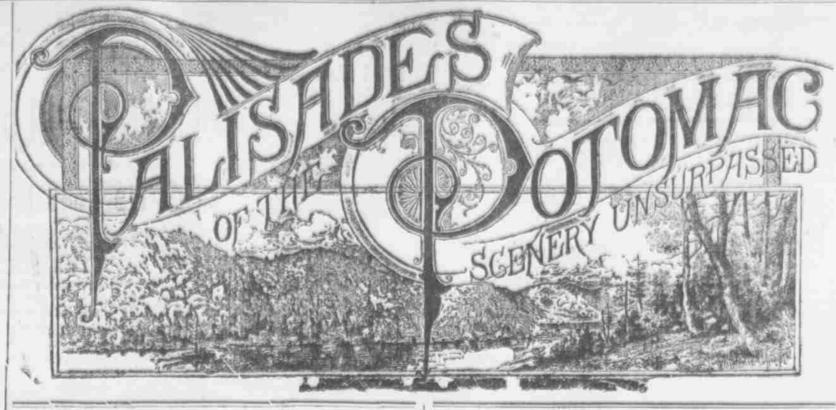


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VISIT TO THE OUTCAST COM-MUNITY OF MARACAIBO.

WHAT A UNITED STATES CONSUL SAW.

Scenes on the Island Where Venezuela's Afflicted Are Banished.

SIXTY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE VICTIMS.

The Marriage Problem---Leper Families and Leper Homes--- The Disease Incurable---Is It Contagious? Amusements,

Sixty photographs of lapers have been received at the State Department. The unfortunates are of all ages-from little Carlota Antencio, only 8 years old, to Luis B. Morales, aged 73. Thuy represent all stages of the disease. In the case of Abraham Fernendez, who has been affected nine years, the only visable signs are tawny spots on the for chead and too many wrinkles for his 30 years. Alfonso Bernal is of the same age, but he has been a leper twenty-four years. He has lost his eyes. His senses of smell and of taste are gone. He is stone deaf. Fingers and toes have dropped off. The complete description of his condition is too

These lepers live on an island in the lake four miles from Maraculho. They are quarantined and maintained there by the Venezuelan Government American Consul, Mr. E. H. Piumacher, has become deeply interested in the study of the disease. He has made several visits to the island. Recently be induced a Mexican photographer to In this way the pictures were obtained.

In the letter which accompanies the photographs Mr. Piumacher says: "It has always been a difficult matter to persuade outsiders to expose themselves to the most remote possibility of contagion from the lepers, and many of my acquaintances shook their heads ominously upon hearing of my intention to make as complete a study as possible of the Muracalbo Lazaretto and its inmates. I was finally fortunate enough to secure an excellent photographer, whom I must mention in terms of the warmest praise, and we, in company with Dr. Alcibiades Flores. visiting physician, proceeded to the isper bland, where we found that all arrangements had been made for our

Contrary to our expectation, we found but little objection made on the part of the patients, the great majority appearing to appreciate that it was not more curiosity which led us to perpetuare the record of their intery. As will be noticed from the photographs and their descriptions, cases were solected from one extreme to the other-

JACOB

the camera; and there was something pathetic in the almost universal reuest to be supplied with pictures of themselves, which could only be constant reminders of their hopeless afflic tions. In addition to the individual photographs, various large groups were taken, with an effect both sad and grotesque. There is one bright spot, how ever, in the dark picture of misery, this being the devotion and self-abnegation displayed by the near relatives of many of the sufferers, who, although enjoy-ing themselves the blessings of health and strength, cheerfully sub-mit to perpetual imprisonment in order to minister to the wants of their husbands, mothers and other relatives, thus alleviating their woes by their companionship and care. Many examples of this are seen to-day on the lazaretto island, and it speaks well for human affection that even when the loved one has become a loathesome mass, conjugal ties and the claims of tagion and the repulsive surroundings."

The Consul found on the island 125 lepers. There are many more at large in Maracaibo and its environs. These will be apprehended as rapidly as posst ble and sent to the retreat. The interior arrangements of the island are excellent. Capacious cisterns insure a supply of fresh water, and within the last few months water-works, by means of a wind-mill, have been erected, which give an ample supply of lake water in the different wards and rooms. The inexhaustible quantity of running water thus secured renders it easy to keep all parts of the establishment in a cleanly condition, besides allowing frigation of the cultivated pertions of the island. The diet is wholesome and abundant, and the aver-age cost of the maintenance and treatment of each person amounts to about

\$13 in American mency monthly.

A comfortable building has been erected for the use of the employes, while for the patients a large effice. bulit of concrete, forming a parallelegram, with a court yard in the centre, is divided into separate apartments plainly but sufficiently furnished. A nest chapel has been recently built, where every Sunday religious service is held and the sacraments administered to those who may so desire. A pleasant feature is the establishment of cottages with grounds attached, in which reside those patients whose means permit it. Land is given free to any one who is able to exect a dwelling, and, as there formed, giving the Island a chagrful

The Consul tells of a strange discovery made in this leper community. He writes: "It was at first a much mented point as to whether marriages should be permitted among the patients. and, and after a lengthy investigation and discussion, it was finally determined that past experiences warranted the briter that such unloss would prove unfruitful, and consequently various weddings have been celebrated. For years the theory of sterility was not

union between a sound and a diseased a mistake may not have been made in the diagnosis of one or the other of the parents, confounding with true leprosy some other physical taint, which, though similar in appearance, may be different in kind. Be that as it may, neither one of the two children has as yet shown symptoms of the disease, and in March of last year one of them, who had reached the age of 14 years. having passed his whole life on the island with his leprous parents, allowed to return to society, after hava board of competent experts. This is but one instance of the puzzling char-acter of the disease. The general ef-fect of these marriages has, no doubt, been to induce more cheerfulness and resignation and to add greatly to the good discipline of the establishment. Mr. Plumacher explains that, at-

though marriages would not be allowed between a sound and a diseased person, yet, in the case of the development of eprosy in one of a couple after marriage, the sound consort is permitted to eccompany the other to the lazaretto, and this has occurred in many instances. With the system of separate cottages for those who derire them, the island is beginning to assume the aspect of a rural municipality. Its extent is little more than a mile square, with good soil, of well to do patients for the cultivation of various products and the breeding of goats. The territory has been artificially stocked with game, which is now becoming abundant, and nothing seems to have been left undone to secure the comfort and welfare of these unfortu-A reading room and library are at

their constant disposal and occasional nusical entertainments are furnished by the junta, all of whose efforts are directed to the establishment of a verimay, as far as possible, forget their afficients. Weekly visits of relatives and friends are permitted, which are looked forward to with eager anticipation, and the discipling generally is mild and judicious, punishment being matted out with testing and the control of the con meted out with justice and humanity to svil doers, a proportion of whom must naturally be found in every community, even one of lepers.

The Consul has luvestigated the character of the disease with considerteresting conclusions, especially as regards the question of contagion. He says: "The disease assumes various phases, the most common type being he tuberculous, manifested in distorted catures, enormous pendant cars and lips and an abundance of exaggerated wrinkles. I have seen children of both fentures and bearing of cologenarians, and some of the saddest cases are of this the body becomes scaly, and, at times, covered with olders, and the faculties of sight and hearing are frequently cottnely steatroyed.

"There has been much difference of is contagle us, and, although the great benefit from the camphor treatment. is contagious, and, although the great which marks the very commencemen of the disease, to the poor mutilisted body, in which there remains scarcely about to be delimitely settled, when two body, in which there remains scarcely a semblance of humanity. Is this tast parents in each case being lopers. It can be described to believe that the subject believe to be described to be subject believe, to the poor mutilisted to be delimitely settled, when two doubt, that it is a true contagions distributed the subject believe, to the poor mutilisted to be delimited to believe that the subject believe, to the poor mutilisted to be described to be subject believe, to the set of the disease, to the poor mutilisted the subject believe, to the poor mutilisted the subject believe, to the poor mutilisted the subject believe to the disease, to the poor mutilisted the subject believe, to the poor mutilisted the subject believe to the poor mutilisted the poor mutilisted the subject believe to the poor mutilisted the subject believe to the poor mutilisted the poor mutiliste

has always been well understood that a | the weight of medical opinion, at least physician, Dr. Alcibiades Flores, is however, a firm believer in the doctrine bilghting of the life prospects of members of our party. It is true that on that day our rntercourse with the lepers was of a much more intimate baracter than if we had been ordinary visitors.

"The case of Father Damien of the Hawaiian Islands, who, after years devoted service among the lepers . Molokai, finally succumbed to infection is quoted by the advocates of the con tagion theory. I confess freely that I am not a believer in the theory of contagion, properly so called. It will be easily understood that, should matter from a leprous ulcer come into absolute contact with the blood of a well person, inevitable infection would result and leprosy be engendered, in the same manner that the surgeon at times meets bis death through blood poisoning con-tracted in the dissection of a cadaver. So far and no farther am I an advocate of the theory of contagion; and it is possible that Father Damien in his ministrations may have met with such an

The experience of many years in The experience of many years in the island lazarcito tends the same way. Sound wives have been living with diseased husbands, some of whom have arrived at the last and most loathsome stages of the malady. Daughters have ministered to their afflicted mothers for years, and at the death of the later have returned to the result when the contract of the contract of the later have returned to the result when the contract of the later have returned to the result when the contract of the later have returned to the result when the contract of the later have returned to the result when the contract of the later have returned to the returned to the return the contract of the later have returned to the return the contract of the later have returned to the return the contract of the later have returned to the return the contract of the later have returned to the return the later have returned to the return the later have returned to the later have return the later have returned to the later have return the later have returned to the later have return the later have returned to the later have return the later have returned to the later have return the later hav have returned to the world, where they are to day healthy mothers of healthy families; and the entire history of the lazaretto for more than fifty years is a refutation of the contaglousness of the disease. The reason, I fancy, why physicians here sometimes differ on this point is that there are two theories re-specting the origin of laprosy, one of which—the parasitical or microbian theory—if clearly established, would, no doubt, indicate centagious qualities and its supporters, in order to be consistent, must go the whole length. Th French theory of the medular origin of the disease, together with its in curshility (although the possibility of alleviation is admitted), finds the mosfavor among the more experienced

Whether leprosy can be cured is a prestion to which experience on the eper island at Maracalbo gives a negative answer. Consul Plumacher finds that the administration of tonles and ustringents has appeared to give good results, and Dr. Flores nount even to betieve that by constancy in their use an almost absolute cure could be obtained. The icdides and mercurial preparations have also been tested, as well as the thecture of cuntharides; but all of those remedies produce more or less identical effects—that of a temporary amelioration approaching a genuine care. Dr. Places who is a warm partiagn of the parasiti cal theory, believes in the use of cam-phor, in the form of a syring, as one of the best methods of combating the dis-ease; and his enthusiasm leads him so represy is curable if not allowed to

## 1418 New

B. COTTRELL,

leprosy, any remedy which tends to improve the state of the blood and the general health will, no deubt, have its temporary amelio-rating effect upon the malaly itlisease, and the most that can be done physical suffering and mental distress, of treatment, it may be interesting to note that among the ignorant an idea is prevalent that leprosy may be cured by a dict of buzzard flesh and soup. As it is necessary, however, that this regimen be observed with constancy almost to imagine that not even the most zealous pholders of this remarkable remedy

have been able to give it a satisfactory Referring to the possibility of error in the diagnosis of leprosy, Consul Plumacher says there is at present in the lazaretto a patient who, after three years' residence, is still considered a doubtful case. He was finally removed rom the island and placed in one of the city hospitals, where for several weeks he was closely observed by a board of physicians, all treatment being disconinued. No agreement of opinion could ferred to the island, where he still re-

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MELLIS-RISENDHIES. At Reen parcon-age, Baltimore, Md. October 4, 1980 by the Beet B. Olin Eldridge, rector of Reen Church, Baltimore, Md. Mas Helen V Mellis to V. Hugo Eisenbeiss, both of Washington, J. C. BARDESTY-CAMMACK -On Friday, October 10, 1880, by Rev. Mr. Clapp, at Mount Calvary pursonage. Bultimore, Md. Arlington I. Hardesty and Annie S. Cammack, both of Wushington, B. C.

Married.

CLUM — At his late rendence 200 A street scallengt October 17, 1886, William H. Chom, aged 13 years, 8 menths and of days.
Fabernal services Will be held at the Metropolition Preshfuring Church, normer of Yourth and B streets scatthenet. Westers day, October 1s, at 4 M october 1s, no. Friends are rest-cettally levited. MAPES.—On Tuesday, October 1s, 1886, at 100 a ft., Catherine A. Mapes.
Foreral on Thursday meeting from 8t. Peter's Church, Capitol Hill. Interment at Bailthoure.

MARTAIN -On Tuesday, October 14, 1885. of 100 a.m. of consumption Julian A. Mar-ain, the belowed mechanic of Laura C. Mar-ain, in the God year of his age. Fineral from his late toridance, 750 Feath theat southeast. Thursday at 3 o'clock is. O. Friends and relatives are invited to at-end.

fend.

Rahara - the contober 14, 1800, at 7:30 a, m. wi. the residence of her daughter, Mrachara, so Michile street southeast.

Nrs. Aratin Muhama, and the best southeast.

Nrs. Aratin Muhama, ared the years.

Functal will take those from residence. Thursday machine, at 10 cents a m. r Contober 12, 1800, and 1800 and machine minical residence in the contober 14, 1800, at 200 p. m. dankson Humanat Pumphray.

Since at 200 p. m. dankson Humanat Pumphray. neeral from her late tendence, but First

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DEPARTMENT OF THE POTORAC, G. A. R., WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 15, 1830. mble in uniform at G. A. R. Hali, 1412 Pen demonstrated the incurability of the | SHARP, to attend the funeral of our decessed

W. W. BELKNAP, from St. John's Church to Arlington National Cemetery. Post commanders are expected to turn out Comrades of other Departments solourning in the city are cordially invited to particl-

seembly at the same hour.
M. EMMET URELL. JOHN M. KROGH, And Adl't Gen'l.

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF LI-

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